REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-26 previously presented for examination remain in the application.

Claims 1, 11, 19, 24 and 26 have been Currently Amended. No claims have

been canceled or added.

Claims 24 and 26 stand objected to due to minor informalities. Claims 24

and 26 have been Currently Amended as indicated above to correct the

informalities. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

Claims 1-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being considered

to be anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,085,263 to Sharma et al. ("Sharma").

Claim 1 includes the limitations

a prefetch engine to prefetch data from a distributed, coherent memory in
response to a first transaction from an input/output bus directed to the distributed,
coherent memory; and
an input/output coherent cache buffer to receive the prefetched data, the
coherent cache buffer being coherent with the distributed, coherent memory and
with other cache memories in a system including the input/output coherent cache
buffer,
the prefetch engine further to speculatively prefetch data if data has been
prefetched for pending, memory-related transactions from the input/output bus.

(Claim 1)(emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully submit that Sharma does not teach or suggest at

least speculatively prefetching data as set forth in claim 1.

Sharma discloses a method and apparatus for employing commit-signals

and prefetching to maintain inter-reference ordering in a high-performance I/O

processor. In accordance with Sharma, a retire controller imposes inter-

reference ordering among the operations based on receipt of a commit signal for each operation, wherein the commit signal for a memory reference operation indicates the apparent completion of the operation rather than actual completion of the operation. A prefetch controller coupled to an I/O cache prefetches data into a cache without any ordering constraints. The ordered retirement functions of the I/O processor are separate from its prefetching operations. (Sharma, Abstract).

Sharma does not teach or suggest speculatively prefetching data as set forth in claim 1. For at least this reason, claim 1 is patentably distinguished over the Sharma reference.

Independent claims 11 and 19 include limitations similar to that discussed above in reference to claim 1. Claims 2-10, claims 12-18 and claims 20-26 depend from and further limit claims 1, 11 and 19. Thus, for at least the same reasons, claims 2-26 are patentably distinguished over the Sharma reference.

Based on the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that the applicable rejections and objections have been overcome and claims 1-26 are in condition for allowance. If the examiner disagrees or believes that further discussion will expedite prosecution of this case, the examiner is invited to telephone applicants' representative at the number indicated below.

42390.P9301

If there are any charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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11